

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In conjunction with this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants are submitting an Information Disclosure Statement, although, based on the priority date of this application (November 12, 2002) and the filing date of the submitted reference (December 2, 2003), Applicants do not believe the submitted patent to be prior art to the currently pending application.

REMARKS

This paper requests the entry of an amendment to the claims of the application to amend Claim 1 and add additional dependent claims, support for which can be found at least at paragraph 12 of the originally filed application. The Applicant submits that no new matter is introduced by this amendment.

Claims 1-24 were initially presented in the parent application. Claim 1 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. Claims 25-31 have been added. After entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-31 will be pending in the application and are presented for consideration.

Applicant submits that the claim amendment and new claims introduce no new matter to the application. Support for the new claims may be found throughout the application as filed and at least at paragraph 12 of the specification.

Applicant encloses a check for the addition of the new claims. If any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-1700.

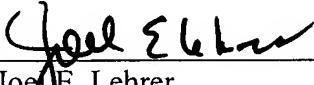
Applicant: Buehler et al.
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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-31 in due course. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at the number listed below to discuss any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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